

Message Text

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16

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TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, PL, UR, GE, PO

SUBJECT: CSCE APPARENTLY DOWNGRADED BY COMMUNIST EDITORS

1. SUMMARY. TRYBUNA LUDU'S ANNUAL POLLING OF ITS SISTER PUBLICATIONS CONCERNING IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR, THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF WHICH APPEARED ON DECEMBER 29, CONTAINS WHAT LOOKS TO BE A PURPOSEFUL DOWNGRADING OF CSCE, ESPECIALLY BY THE SOVIETS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE SOUNDING, EDITORS OF COMMUNIST PARTY ORGANS
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FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES ARE ASKED TO NAME THE MOST IM-

PORTANT EVENT IN THEIR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD DURING 1975. PRAVADA DEPUTY EDITOR VADIM NEKRASOV CITED AS THE TOP DOMESTIC EVENT THE DECEMBER CPSU-CC PLENUM, CLOSELY LINKING IT WITH THE UPCOMING XXV CPSU CONGRESS. IN THE INTERNATIONAL CATEGORY HE NAMED, IN APPARENT RANK ORDER: THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY OVER FASCISM; THE VICTORIES IN INDOCHINA; AND, ONLY IN THIRD PLACE, THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF CSCE. HE WENT ON TO ELABORATE SOMEWHAT ON CSCE, NOTING THAT IT HAD RECOGNIZED RESULTS OF WORLD WAR II AND HAD CONFIRMED THE STERILITY AND HARMFULNESS OF PURSUING POLICIES "FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH". HE ASSERTED THAT THERE WERE NO WINNERS NOR LOSERS AT CSCE.

3. HEUES DEUTSCHLAND DEPUTY EDITOR GUENTER KURTZSCHER CITED GDR DOMESTIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIRST CATEGORY AND LISTED THE GDR-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY AND THE VICTORY IN VIETNAM UNDER THE SECOND. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF CSCE, BUT MAINLY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF CONFIRMING THE GDR'S INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY. COMPLETING THE FIRST INSTALLMENT, AVANTE POLITICAL DIRECTOR DIAS LOURENCO CITED AS THE TOP DOMESTIC EVENT THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION, WHICH HE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH. HE CONCLUDED WITH BRIEF MENTION OF VIETNAM AND THE HELSINKI SUMMIT AS THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS.

4. IN AN UNUSUAL, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY RELATED, MOVE, ZYCIE WARSZAWY ON DECEMBER 29 PUBLISHED WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE FULL TEXT OF JAMES RESTON'S "FAREWELL TO 1975" FROM THE DECEMBER 21 ISSUE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE. RESTON'S STATEMENT THAT NEARLY COMPLETE STAGNATION HAS PREVAILED DURING THE YEAR IN RELATIONS AMONG THE U.S., THE SOVIET UNION, AND CHINA CONTRASTS WITH THE HOPEFUL OPTIMISM ABOUT U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS THAT HAS PREVAILED IN THE PRESS HERE AND COULD BE THE GRIMMEST DEPICTION OF THE STATE OF DETENTE THAT POLISH READERS HAVE HAD.

5. THE PICTURE WAS BALANCED, HOWEVER, BY TWO YEAR-END APPRAISALS IN TRYBUNA LUDU ON DECEMBER 27 AND 29. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIRST, BY MAKSYMILIAN BEREZOWSKI, LIKENED CSCE TO THE CROSSING OF A RUBICON IN IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS OVER WHICH NO ONE OF SOUND MIND WISHES TO RETURN. BEREZOWSKI FURTHER COMMENTED THAT DETENTE IN EUROPE IS DEVELOPING A BROADER INFLUENCE AND OBSERVED THAT THE COUNTRIES OF EUROPE CAN NOW WORK TO GIVE LASTING CHARACTER TO THE DETENTE PROCESS. HIS COLLEAGUE, RYSZARD DRECKI, DISCUSSING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IN THE SECOND ARTICLE,

ATTACKED ALLEGED DIVERSIONARY EFFORTS BY THOSE IN THE CAPITALISTIC CAMP WHO SHRINK FROM ACCEPTING THE ONLY POSSIBLE AND REALISTIC PATH AND SEEK TO WARP THE CONCEPT OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE TO THEIR OWN ENDS. HE CONCLUDED OPTIMISTICALLY, HOWEVER, BY STATING THAT, WHILE 1976 CONFIRMED SUCH NEGATIVE MANIFESTATIONS, IT ALSO SIGNALLED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL STANDING OF COEXISTENCE IS RISING AND THAT THE CONCEPT WILL DEVELOP FURTHER, AS THE LACK OF AN ALTERNATEIVE BASIS FOR EAST-WEST RELATIONS BECOMES MORE EVIDENT.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH UNSTINTING IN THEIR ACTUAL DEPICTION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CSCE, THE PRAVDA AND NEUES DEUTSCHLAND RESPONDENTS, AS WELL AS THEIR AVANTE COLLEAGUE, SEEMED CONSISTENT AND ALMOST STUDIED IN THEIR EFFORT TO DOWNGRADE IT AGAINST THE OTHER EVENTS. SUCH APPARENT DE-EMPHASIS CONTRASTS MARKEDLY WITH THE EPOCHAL TREATMENT THE HELSINKI SUMMIT AND ITS RESULTING "GREAT CHARTER OF PEACE" HAD PREVIOUSLY ENJOYED IN THE POLISH PRESS. WE SUSPECT THAT THE POLES MAY NOT BE AS WILLING AS SOME OF THEIR COMRADES TO DOWNGRADE THE IMPORTANCE OF CSCE.
DAVIES

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